REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 17, 2005. Claims 39 to 111 are pending in the application, with Claims 39 to 75, 80 to 93, 98 to 105, 107, 108, 110 and 111 having been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 76, 94, 106 and 109, all of which are independent, have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 76, 77, 94, 95, 106 and 109 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,774,232 (Tabata); and Claims 78, 79, 96 and 97 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Tabata in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,335,796 (Endo). Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns outputting image data to an output medium. Information is acquired indicating an X-ray irradiation condition or a photographed portion of an input image. An outputting area, to be outputted to the output medium, is designated based on the acquired information, wherein a size of the designated outputting area is smaller than a size of the input image. One of a plurality of output media sizes is selected, and an output mode is determined based on a relationship between the designated outputting area and the selected output medium size.

A feature of the present invention therefore lies in designating an outputting area based on acquired information of an input image, wherein a size of the designated outputting area is smaller than a size of the input image.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 76 as amended is directed to an image outputting system for outputting image data to an output medium. The system comprises an acquisition unit configured to acquire information indicating an

X-ray irradiation condition or a photographed portion of an input image. The system further comprises a designation unit configured to designate an outputting area, in image data obtained by computerizing the input image, to be outputted to the output medium, based on the information acquired by the acquisition unit, wherein a size of the designated outputting area is smaller than a size of the input image. In addition, the system further comprises a selection unit configured to select one of a plurality of output media sizes, and a determination unit configured to determine an output mode based on a relationship between the designated outputting area and the output medium size selected by the selection unit.

In a similar manner, independent Claim 94 as amended is directed to a method corresponding to the system of Claim 76.

Independent Claim 106 as amended is directed to a photographing system for photographing an object and outputting image data to an output medium based on an image of the photographed object. The system comprises an acquisition unit configured to acquire information indicating an X-ray irradiation condition or a photographed portion of the object, and a photographing unit configured to photograph the object and obtain image data representing the image. The system further comprises a designation unit configured to designate an outputting area to be outputted to the output medium, in the image data, based on the information acquired by the acquisition unit, wherein a size of the designated outputting area is smaller than a size of the input image. In addition, the system further comprises a selection unit configured to select one of a plurality of output medium sizes, and a determination unit configured to determine an output mode based on a relationship

between the designated outputting area and output medium size selected by the selection unit.

In a similar manner, independent Claim 109 as amended is directed to a method corresponding to the system of Claim 106.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of the invention of the subject application. In particular, Tabata and Endo are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the feature of designating an outputting area based on acquired information of an input image, wherein a size of the designated outputting area is smaller than a size of the input image.

As understood by Applicants, Tabata discloses an image recording apparatus that recognizes a size of a sheet document fed thereto, and divides a read image into two portions when a size of the sheet document is larger than recording paper having a specified size. The apparatus executes image processing for displacing a central position of each divided image to be aligned with an edge of a binding space of each discrete sheet of recording paper. The apparatus inverts either one of a first sheet of recording paper or a second sheet of recording paper. See Tabata, column 16, line 62 to column 17, line 8.

Although Tabata may be seen to disclose that the size of a sheet document fed into an image recording apparatus can be recognized, it is not seen to disclose or suggest a difference in sizes between an outputting area and an input image. In particular, Tabata is not seen to disclose or suggest that the size of the outputting area is smaller than the size of the input image. Rather, Tabata merely discloses that a read image is divided into two portions when the size of the sheet document is larger than that of the recording paper. Accordingly, Tabata is not seen to disclose or suggest designating an outputting

area based on acquired information of an input image, wherein a size of the designated outputting area is smaller than a size of the input image.

In addition, Endo has been reviewed and is not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Tabata.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 76, 94, 106 and 109 as amended are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

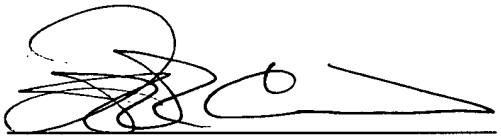
The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Finally, an Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this Amendment.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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